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LYCEUM THEATRE BUILDING
MEMPHIS, TENN.

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Miss. Frances Levine,
70 Somers St.,
Brooklyn,
N. Y.

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April 21st, 1917.

My darling sweetheart Frances:-

To-day I received 3 letters from you, dated 17th, 18th, & 19th; I suppose it was the delay in the mail that caused it.

Well, Toots mine, owing to my confidence in a college friend, I'm the loser of about $200. I'll tell you how. The store sold for $3030 as I told you & they have, up till to day, collected $900 on open accounts which brings it up to approximately $4000. I had asked this friend to speak to his uncle about my getting a nice big fee so that I could come home. He told me he did. Then I went up to the judge this morning and asked him & he intimated that this "friend" of mine never did such a thing. He didn't say a word about it. Then I asked the judge about my fee & he put me off till Monday when I'll get my check. He refused to tell me how much I'll get and said that I'll get as much as any other lawyer would get in the same circumstances. I then proceeded to ask my friend, Taylor is his name, how much I should expect, after the

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judge had said that & he said about $150. What do you think of that? Honey, I'll have to believe Cohn. Cohn told me to lookout or Taylor would double cross me & he did. That's the thing. He betrayed the confidence I reposed in him and you may rest assured I'll never forget & forgive him for doing so. I'll know by Monday how much I'll really get & by Wednesday, you'll know. I'll say this, whatever I do get & I can spare $75, fare & a few weeks to live on, I'll come home pretty soon, probably in the middle of ~~may~~ May & stay for about 3 or 4 weeks. Darling mine, I've got to come home because this conscription bill as you said will pass, and if it does, it will pass pretty soon. I am going to talk to Cohn & ask him if he will take over the case if I must leave for home. There will be another meeting of the creditors & I don't believe I'll have to be there as there is going to be a big fight among the creditors themselves & will probably involve ~~the~~ the bankrupts. If so, I'll try & have Cohn attend to it as he is also named as attorney for the bankrupts as I put his name down with mine, but I don't

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have to give him anything out of my fee. So all we have to do is to wait till Monday.

Sweetheart, the latest bulletin now says that all those who get or got married since the outbreak of war between the U.S. & Germany, will not be exempt. Toots, even if I have to go, will you be willing to be married when I come home on this trip? Either as we once intended to do or publicly. Think it over. Whichever way it does happen, you must understand it will take at least another year before we can live together so that I can be making a living to support you. The reason why I want to get married now is because if I do go to war & get killed, you can say that your husband died for his country, & if I don't go to war or if I get through safely, we will know we have one another. Please don't fail to let me know in your immediate next letter.

You still want to know if I really love you, Dearest Frances, if I can only show you that I do. Here I am, willing to marry you, and you refuse, & yet you ask me if I love you. Toots, do you really love me as much as I love you. When you retire at night, do you say

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a little prayer for me to be able to be with you as I pray that you may be with me? I am quite sure that you do as I'm pretty confident, from your letters that you do, but Toots, here I am, all alone, nobody to love me when I am lonesome, except your darling welcome letters, but, Oh, Toots, if we were only together, I'm sure that both of us would be satisfied that each of us love the other as much as any couple can love. Isn't that true? If everything goes along nice & smooth, & war doesn't interfere, it won't be long before we are living together down here. I'll try my best to make a living & with the accumulation of time & hard & persistent study we will be well off.

In reference to the pharmacy profession here, you must take the State Board here, but I've found out it's simply easy to pass either the pharmacy or medical exams here. 149 people went up for the medical exam here & only 18 failed. I believe that will show anyone that it was easy, & that only happened last year. Of course the exam may be harder this year. Pray, and why did you ask about it? Whatever you do, don't think that here you has such

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a wonderful reputation down here, because it hasn't. I've found that out through experience.

Precious sweetheart mine, that dog-gone case completely knocked me out. Disappointed thoroughly & feel so down-hearted and blue to-day, you can't imagine. Any way, darling, it may be yet that I'll be able to come home, so don't you worry & feel blue about it until you hear from me by Monday's letter. Whatever happens, I'll immediately sit down & write you.

Keep a loving me, darling mine & show your lonesome, disappointed lawyer man you still love him.

With all my heart wishes, love & all my Kisses I can give to so sweet, and noble & fine girl ~~that~~ whom I have the honor to call my own,

Lovingly yours
Joe